



7.1

A BRIEFE TREATISE,
To prooue the neces-
sitie and excellence of the
VSE OF ARCHERIE.

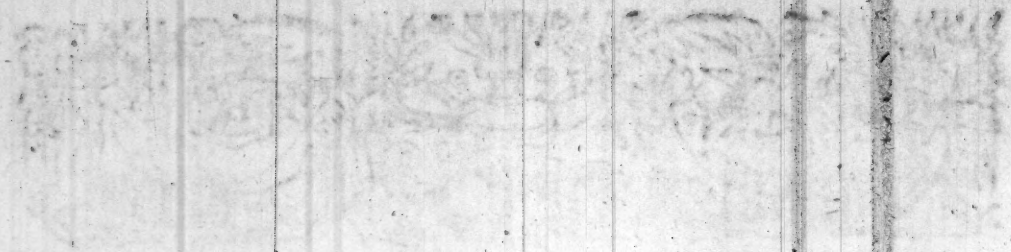
Abstracted out of ancient and Moderne
Writers, By R: S.

Perused, and allowed by Aucthoritie.



AT LONDON,

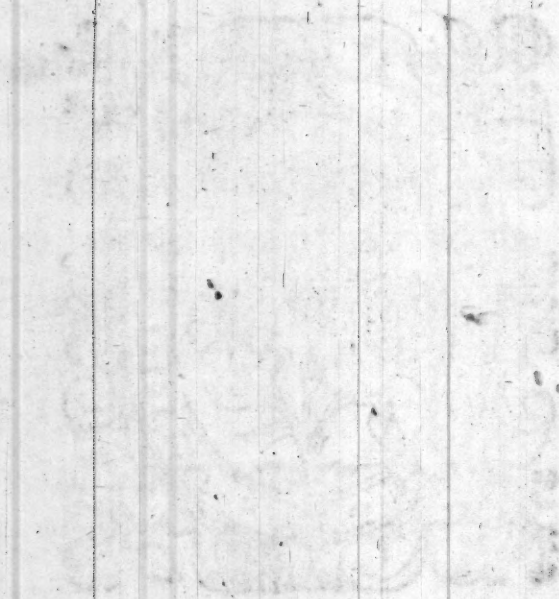
Printed by Richard Iohnes, at the Rose and Crowne; next
aboue S. Andrewes Church in Holburne. 1596.



TO THE
FRIENDS AND EXCELLENCE OF THE
ART OF THE

THE

THE



AT LONDON

THE

To the Nobilitie and Gentlemen of ENGLANDE:

*The Companies of Bowyers and Fletchers wish encrease
of Honour, continuall health and all happinesse.*

May it please your good Lordships, & the wor-
thie minded Gentlemen of England, in all humi-
litie to giue vs leaue to remember you of the an-
cient honor, wherby many forrein Nations, but espe-
ciallie this Realme of England, hath ben long hol-
den famous for victories atchieued, vnder the con-
duct of their right prudent & valiant Princes & Captaines, by the
wonderful effect of Archerie: & to deplore vnto your honors and
wisdoms, the discōtinuance, yea (almost) the vtter extirpation ther-
of, within this Realm: And withal, our own miserable estates, who
with many other poore Artificers that haue had their maintenance
therby, are (in great number) brought to vtter ruyn and decaie. In
the rowme wherof, is crept in the noysome vse of vnthrifte & vn-
lawful Games: Wherfore, to stirre vp in your honors and worthi-
nesse, a due commisseration of these great mischieses, we haue cau-
sed this Abstract to be taken out of former Writers, and from right
credible and true Reportes: Not intending heereby to insinuate to
our selues any such fauour or reliefe within this Common-wealth,
for our priuate auaille, as to innouate any superfluous thing, or to
drive the same to any charge at al, vnlesse the quallitie of the Sub-
iect wherof we intreat, shal in your graue discrecions be adiudged
to be worthie therof, more for the honor & sauegard of her Royall
Maiestie, her kingdoms and dominions, then for our priuat regard.

For if (in your iudgements) the Examples and Reasons in this
Briebe contained, shal not be holden of waight and moment wor-
thie the preferment of Archerie, then shal we be pleased rather to
sincke in our owne miseries, then to become vnprofitable burthe-
nous to our Prince and Countrey.

And therefore, do wee (humble) intreate, that we maie bee with
sauour, permitted to propose the same, to your Honours and Wise-
domes: to th'ende, that if they shall seeme forcible, and worthie

THE EPISTLE.

your considerations, it wold then please you with a favorable zerie to further those proceedings her Royall Maiestie hath and shall take for our reliefe herein, which is, that by your good endeouours, her Maiesties forward Subiects in the exercise of Archerie, maie be cherished, & obstinat persōs refusing to be reformed (disposing themselves rather to practise vnlawfull Games) may be chastned & corrected according to the forme of the laudable lawes in that behalfe made & prouided: nor is it our meaning, to derogate from the reputation of the vse or excellence of any other strong or approoued weapons fit for the wars, be they of fire or others, such as your wisdomes & counselles haue prouided to be had & ordained; but that both (not compared together, whither should in all respects be better then the other, but so ioyned together, that the one should bee an aide & helpe for the other) might so strengthen the Realme on al sides in their seuerall natures, that not any Nation may become dangerous vnto vs. nor we disarm our selues of that weapon wher in God & Nature hath made vs excell, and whereby we haue euer ben preualent ouer al our enemies: For by the Supplie to be made by Archrie amongst the greatest number of persons (which if any present need shuld require, could not be furnished with other warlike munition, both for want of abilitie, & also by reason it can not wel be had for so many as ther be able men to serue with the same) it wil fal out, that noe fit persons will be founde naked or vnprofitable be the accidentes of Warre neuer so suddaine: Of the want wherof, we haue heard men of good Iudgement latelie complaine, in respect of the late petie incursion made by the Enemie vpon the Sea-coast in the Countie of **CORNWAL**: Wherefore, it may please your Honours and Wisdomes to accept of our good intents (though we be of the meanest sort of her Highnesse Subiects) who do not so much herein pretend our owne prefermentes or aduantages, as the aduancement of the Honour of this Realme, whiche hath shoane bright in your noble Auncestors, by their manifold Conquestes, famouslie atchieued; especiallie, by vertue of this Weapon: And we shall (deuotely) praie to God, that that Fame and Honour may redouble vpon your selues & yours, in this time of her Maiesties most happie raigne, and so successiuelie, for euer.

Certen Collections out of

ancient and Moderne Writers, proouing
the necessitie and excellence of the
vse of Archerie :

Deuided into three partes, vtz.

I.

That the vse of Archerie is a most auncient and noble
Exercise: And that for Princes and great men, it
is a most faire and honourable Practise.

II.

That it is most necessarie for the Subiects to vse the
same both in peace and warre.

III.

And for Battelles and victories in the field (whervpon
our Nation void of strong Townes doth speciallie
repose it selfe) Archerie to be of farre greater effect
then anie other weapon that euer was inuented:
And that in respect therof onelie, this Realme of
England hath been euer feared and honored of all
Nations.

The first Part.



L A T O, Calimachus and Galene,
very noble writers bring the inuen-
tion of shooting from Apollo: for the
which cause, Shooting is highly
praised of Galen in his booke of Ex-
hortation to good Artes, where hee
saith

The necessity, and
saith, that meane craftes be first founde out by men
or beastes, as weauing by a Spyder, &c. But high
and commendable Sciences by Goddes, as Shoo-
ting and Musicke by Apollo. And if wee shall be-
leeue Nicholas de Lyra, Lamech killed Caine with a
Shaft.

Cyaxares the King of the Medes, and great grand-
father to Cyrus, kept a sort of Scythians with him on-
ly for this purpose, to teach his son Astiages to shoot.

Cyrus being a child, was brought vp in shooting,
which Xenophon wold neuer haue made mention of,
except it had been fit for Princes to haue vsed, seeing
that Xenophon wrote Cyrus life (as Tullie sayth) not
to shewe what Cyrus did, but what all manner of
Princes both in pastimes & earnest matters ought
to doe.

Darius the first King of Persia of that name, he wa-
ed playnlie, how fit it is for a King to loue and vse
Shooting, who commanded this sentence to be writ-
ten on his tombe for a princely memory and praise.

Darius the King lyeth buried heere,
That in Shooting and riding had no peere.

Herodian his opinion of Commodus the Empe-
rour, was: that he had no Princely thing in him, but
strength of bodie, and good Shooting.

Themistius the noble Philosopher, in an Oration
made to Theodosius the Emperour, commendeth him
for three things that hee vsed of a Childe: Shooting:
Riding of a horse well, and feates of Armes.

It

It is most manifest in the histories of our Nation, that the Kings and Princes of this Realm haue bin excellent Archers: And this age can witnesse with what loue and affection the right noble Kings of famous memorie, King Henrie the eight, and Edward the sixt, did vse and exercise the same in their owne persons.

By Shooting is the minde honorably exercised, where a man alwaies desireth to bee best (which is a word of honor) and that by the same way that vertue it self doth, coueting to come nighest a most perfect end, or meane standing between two extreames, eschuing short or gone, or on eyther side, wide. For which causes Aristotle himselfe saith: that Shooting and Vertue be very like. And that of all other, it is the most honest pastime, and least occasion to naughtinesse, two things doe very plainly proue: vz. Day-light and Open place. If Shooting fault at any time, it hides not it selfe, but openly accuseth and bewaileth it selfe: which is the next way to amendement, as wise men doe say.

Aristotle de Morib.

THE SECOND PART.

NOt only Kinges and Emperors haue bene brought vp in shooting, but also the best common Wealths that euer were haue made goodly aces & laws for it: as the Persians (who vnder Cyrus conquered very many nations) had a law, that their children should learne three thinges only, from five yeares old to twenty: To ride a horse wel, to shoot wel, & to speak trueth alwaies and neuer lie.

The Romans (as Leo the Emperour in his booke of the sleighes of warre telleth) had a law that euery man shuld vse Shooting in time of peace, while he were forty yeres olde: And that euerie house shoulde haue a Bowe and forty Shafte ready for all needes: The omitting of which Law (saith Leo) among the youth, hath bene the only occasion, why the Romaines lost a great deale of their Empire.

The firste Statute and Lawe that euer Dauid made after he was King, was this: that all the children of Israell shoulde learne to shote (according to a Law made many a day before that time, for the setting out of Shooting) as it is witten (saith Scripture) in libro Iustorum, which booke we haue not now extant.

Reg, 2, 1

De Leg 7

Plato wold haue common Masters and stipends for to teach youth to shoot: And for the same purpose he would haue broad fields nere euery Citie made common for men to vse shooting in.

Leo the Emperour in his sixt booke: Let all the youth of Rome bee compelled to vse shooting, either more or lesse: And alwayes to beare their bow and their quyer about them, vntill they be forty years old: For since Shooting was neglected and decayed among the Romaines, many a Battell and fielde hath been lost.

Againe, in the xi. Book and 50. Chap. Let your Souldiers haue their weapons wel appointed and trimmed, but aboue all other thinges regarde most shooting: And therfore, let men when ther is no war vse Shooting at home: For the leauing off onely of
Shooting

Shooting hath brought ruine & decay to the whole Empire of Rome.

Ruin & decay to the whole Empire by leaving off of Shooting.

Afterwardes hee commandeth againe his Captaines by these wordes: Arme your hoast as I haue appointed you, but especially with Bowe and Arrowes plenty: For Shooting is a thing of much might & power in warre, and chiefly against the Saracens & Turks, which people haue all their hope of victorie in their Bowe and Shafts.

Besides all this, in another place hee writeth thus to his Captaine. Artillerie is easie to bee prepared, and in time of great neede a thing most profitable. Therefore wee straightly commaund you to make Proclamation to all men vnder our dominions, either in warre or peace, to all Citties, Burroughes and Townes, and finallye to all manner of men: that euery seuerall pearson haue bowe and shaftes of his owne: And euery house besides this, to haue a standing bearing Bow and forty shafts for all needes: And that they exercise themselves in holtes, hilles and dales, playnes and woods, for all maner of chaunces in warre.

And yet Shooting (although they sett neuer so much by it) was neuer so good (then) as it is now in England: which thing to be true, is verie profitable, in that Leo doth say: That he would haue his Soldiers take off their Arrowe-heads, and one shoot at another for their exercise: Which play if the English Archers vled, I thinke they would find small sport, and lesse pleasure in it. But the exercise therof otherwise, bringeth a notable aduantage to them that

The necessitie, and

doe practise the same: for experience doth teach vs, that the strongest men doe not alwaies make the strongest shoote, which thing proueth that draweing strong lyeth not so much in the strength of man, as in the vse of Shooting.

To conclude this second part, if a man shuld peruse all pastimes and exercises profitable to be set by of euery man, woorthy to be rebuked of no man, fit for all ages, persons and places, and a medicine to purge the whole land of all pestilent gaming, onelie Shooting shall appeare, wherein all these commodities shal be found, being strengthened by putting in execution such laudable actes & statutes as haue bin on that behalfe made and prouided by the Parliaments of this Realme.

THE THIRD PART.

TVirgides (euery of whose verses Tullie thinketh to be an Authozitie) doth say, That of all weapons the best is, where with least danger of our selfe, we may hurt our enemy most: And that is (as may be supposed) Artillerie: which now adayes is taken for two things, Gunnes and Bowes.

Peter Nannius a learned man of Louain, in a Dialogue sheweth exceeding commodities of both: And some discommodities of Gunnes: as infinit cost and charge, cumbersome cariage if they be great, the vn-certain leuelling, the peril of them that stand by, &c.
Besides

Besides al this, contrary wind and weather, which hindereth them not a little, and sometime maketh the vnprofitable: Yet of shooting he cannot reherse one discommoditie.

But because some sort of men at Armes would bring our Magistrates and the better sorte of our people and nation to mislike this ancient weapon, as vnprofitable for the wars of our dayes: & wold attribute excellencie to the Musquet and Caluer: See Sir Iohn Smyth, Knight, in his booke treating of Archery from fol. 20, to fol. 28. wher you may find he vtterly confuteth them, prouing three especiall poyntes against them, v3.

- 1 Archers to be most ready in the field.
- 2 Archers to faile least in shooting.
- 3 And that they doe annoy the Enemies most, be they horsemen or footmen.

And then after many vnreplyable reasons, offereth that hee will neuer refuse with 8000. good Archers to aduenture his life against 20000. of the best shot in Christendom.

Where fol. 23. 27. 28. he proueth long Bowes to be most excellent for battailes and great encounters, both against horsemen and footmen, for that it is a ready weapon both in faire and foule weather which shot is not: & that the arrowes in flying both in their descent & fall, kil & wound from the face to the foot, into many ranks of y aduers battel or squadron, which

te
 Which the Shot doth not, but in their point blanke
 (staying at the first, second, or third ranke of the Ene-
 mie) nor then, but seldom by reason of many imper-
 fections, which he setteth downe there. Where it
 is further to be noted, that very many ranks of Ar-
 chers may (with couenience) altogether, one behind
 another, shoot into the Enemies battell, which the
 gunnes cannot doe by reason of their point blank,
 whereby they must needs endanger their fellows
 before them: So that in fol. 29. he concludeth, (as
 wel he may) that ther is no doubt, but Archers with
 their bolles of Arrowes, will wound, kill, and hurt
 aboue an hundred men and horses, for euery one so
 to be done by the Shot.

In fol. 18. 19. He (hauing shewed many imperfecti-
 ons belongyng to the Shot) auerreth, that for those
 causes in many great encounters beie hot, and con-
 tinued many howers with Shot, with new Sup-
 plies on both sides, within three, foure or fiue skozes
 and neerer, there hath not been slaine and hurt on
 both sides with Bullettes thirtie men. And therfore
 in fol. 28. he saith: that it cometh to passe, that when
 men and horse haue ben in three or foure skirmishes
 and do see that they receiue no hurt, neither by fier,
 or smoke, nor noise: nor that in many thousandes of
 men there are not twentie men slain, nor hurt, they
 grow after to be far lesse in doubt therof.

Howbeit the bolles of Arrowes flying together
 in the aire as thick as haile doe not only terrifie and
 amaze, in most terrible sort, the ears, eyes, and hearts
 both of horses and men, with the noise and sight of
 their

their coming: But they also in their discent, doe not leaue in a whole Squadron of horsemen or footmen (although they bee in motion) so much as one man or horse vnstricken and wounded with diuers Arrowes, if the number of Archers be answerable to the number of the Squadron.

Besides all which, it is to be noted, that horses in the fielde being wounded, or but lightly hurt with Arrowes, they through the great paine, that vpon euery motion they doe feel in their flesh, vaines, and sine'wes, by the staying of the Arrowes with their barbed heads hanging in them, doe presently fall a perking and leaping, as if they were madde, in such sort, as be it Squadron, or in troupe, they doe quite disorder one another, and neuer leaue vntill they haue throwne and cast their masters. Whereas contrariwise, Horses that are in vitall parts hurt with Bullets, or the bones of their legs, Shoulders or backes be broken, they doe presently fall downe: Or otherwise, although they bee stricken cleane through, or that the Bullets do still remaine in them, they after the first shrink, at the entring of the Bullet, do passe their carier as though they had very litle or no hurt. In which Treatise fol. 26. 27. hee complaineth of all sortes of Magistrates, for that they doe not see those notable Lawes made by former Kinges for the aduancemēt of Archerie to bee put in execution, wherunto people of this realm (of a singular gift of God) by a naturall inclination, come to be perfect and excellent: Whereby we are suffered to discontinue a weapon euer terrible to the enemies, and whereof they



The necessity, and
they neuer had skill: and vpon any sudden shall bee
enforced to fight with them at their owne weapons
wherein (by necessity) they are continually trained
vp, we being therein vnpractised.

The same knight, in the Proeme of his booke
proueth that the Egyptians did first conquer a great
parte of Asia, Europe, and Affricke by their Armie,
which did consist most of Archerie: But they falling
into security and drunkennes, and neglect of that
weapon, were conquered by Alexander the greate,
the greatest part of whose Armie did consist of Ar-
cherie.

In like sort, and with the like weapon were the
Grecians conquered with the Arabians. After the
same Discipline of Archery they reuiued. And after
(vpon neglect thereof) againe conquered and quite
ouerthrowne by Mahomet with his Turkes and Ia-
nissaries that consisted most of Bow-men.

Pla. 7. 63. 75

King David and Iosiah performed great effectes,
therewith: By this weapon God gaue many vic-
ories to the Jewes: and by the same for their trans-
gression they receiued diuers ouerthrowes of the
Gentiles. Besides that, King David doth cal Bowes
a mighty power, and in his Psalmes the vessels of
death.

Deut. 32.

God when he promiseth help to the Jewes, hee
bleth no kind of speaking so much as this: That hee
will bend his Bowe, and die his Shafes in Gen-
tiles blood: whereby it is manifest, that Shooting
is a wonderfull thing in warre, whereunto the high
power of God is likened.

when

Excellence of Archerie.

When Demosthenes the valiant Captaine Que
and tooke Prisoners, all the Lacedemonians besides
of the Citie of Pilos, the Shafte went so thick that
day (sayth Thucydides) that no man could see their e-
nemies. A Lacedemonian taken Prisoner, was as-
ked of one of Athens, whether they were stout fel-
lowes that were slaine or no, of the Lacedemonians: Thucid. 4.
He answered nothing els but this: Make much of
those Shafte of yours, for they know neither stout
nor vnstout. &c.

The Gothes, Vandals, Alans, and other Northern
Nations, inuaded and conquered Rome and Greece
and besieged Constantinople, spoyled Hungarie, Au-
stria, Illiria, and Dalmatia, wasted all Italie, sacked
France and Spaine, inuaded Affrick, &c. And it is most
evident they atchieued all these victories, more with
the effect of Bowes, then with all the rest of their
weapons.

With the like weapon did the Arrabians inuade
Constantinople, Mesopotamia, Surria, Armenia & Per-
sia, Ierusalem, Egypt, Barbarie, &c. They discontinu-
ing this weapon, were by the same chiefly conquere-
d by the Turkes.

The like did the Tartars against Parthia, Media,
Armenia, Mesopotamia and Surria, with innumerable
numbers of Archers on horseback.

So did Tamberlaine the Tartar Emperour, over-
throw Baiazeth the Turkish Emperour, by reason his
Armie did farre exceed the Turks in the number of
Archers.

Which most excellent effects of Archery, was the
cause

The necessity, and

cause that Amurath the second Emperoz of y^e Turks, did within few yeares after institute for the guard of his person, a number of Janissaries on foot (being Christians renyed) taught from their youth to exercise the Bowe: And so of the Harquebuse: So that when the Turke sendeth any his Bassa to besiege any towns, they all vse to take with them both their bowes and Harquebuses: their Harquebuses to vse in trenches against places fortified: & their bowes for seruices of the field: But the Turke for garde of his person, and for al battels and great encounters in the field, doeth euer prefer the Bowes before the Harquebuses. fol. 41. 42. So likewise doe the Tartars, Persians, and Parthians vnder the Sophie: who although they haue had the vse of shot long before vs in Europe, yet haue they, and do still prefer their Archers, and Bowes for Battels and Victories before their weapons of fire. fol. 42

Casp. de re-
bus turc,

It is very certain, that shooting is the chief thing wherewith God suffereth the Turke to punish our sinnes withall: The youth there is brought vp in shooting: and it is well knowne to the Spaniardes the might of their shooting, who in the towne called Newcastle in Illerica, were all slaine by the Turkes Arrowes, when the Spaniardes had no vse of their gunnes by reason of the raine.

And since that, the Emperours Maiestie himselfe at the Citty of Argier in Affricke, had his hoast sore handled with the Turkes Arrowes, when his guns stood him in no seruice at all by the like accident of raine.

And

And therfore, as concerning all these Kingdoms and common wealths, I may conclude with Plinie, thus: If any man would remember the Ethiopians, Egyptians, Arabians, the men of Indie, of Scythia, so manie people in the East of the Samaritanes, and all the Kingdome of the Parthians, &c. hee shall perceiue halfe the part of the world to liue in subiection, overcome by the might and power of Shooting.

Plin, lib, 16
Chap. 36

Proofes from our Nation of former and moderne times.

The sayd Sir Iohn Smyth, knight, fol. 29. 30. 31. prouing that by y^e example of placing Bowes in the Armie at Tilburie. An. Dom. 1588. Captains of this age in general, not to be expert in that Discipline, hee teacheth the order of our Ancestors therein, in this sort. vz.

Tilburie
Campe.

They plated the in the face of the men at Armes of France and other Nations (who were then better armed then now wee vse to be) and the effect was such, that flying in the ayre as thicke as snow, with a terrible noise (much like a tempestuous wind) they did leaue no disarmed place of horse, or man vnstricken and vnbounded, as may well appeare by the battell of Cressley; that King Edward the thirde, and his sonne Prince Edw. won against Philip of France, where the French were six to one wel armed: where were slain xi. Princes, a thousand and two hundred knightes, and thirty thousand Souldiours: The

ote
st
The necessitie, and
wonderfull effectes and terrour of the shotte of Ar-
rowes was that day such, as neither men at armes
nor other Horsmen of diuers Nations, were able to
enter and breake the Archers, being without pikes
stakes, bankes, and trenches to guard them, but in
the plaine fieldes: The Archers with their Vol-
les of Arrowes did breake the ranks both of Horse-
men and footmen, wounding and killing both horse
and man, the French Kings horse being slain vnder
him, and himselfe in perill.

The like or greater ouerthrow was acted by the
same Prince, against Iohn King of France in the bat-
tell of Poicters, with six thousand Archers, and two
thousand armed men against 60000. French.

The same Prince fought the like battell in Spain
ouerthrow a hundred thousand men in one battel by
the woonderful effect of Archers.

So was the battell of Herringes fought there in
Henric the sixt his time, and won by Archery.

In the same Kings time (as the French Chroni-
cles do report) the L. of Belay accompanied with two
hundred french Lances going to Mans, met with
an English Captain called Berrie, and with him 80.
Archers, by whom the Lances were ouerthrowne,
and diuers taken prisoners.

The like encounter happened about that time,
between Guyan de Coing, a french Captaine with
120. Lances, and Sir William Olde with twent ye
Archers, with like successe.

But for that it may be objected: That it may be
graunted, that Archery was a preualent weapon
in

Excellencie of Archerie

in auncient times befoze the Musquet and Calliuer came to the perfection of their vse: It is not amisse to produce later instances of these our ages.

Seruices of great effect done

by Archerie of our Nation in these our times.

Notable seruice was done in the time of King Henric the 8. of famous memorie (vpon a conuoy between Guicns and Teroun) by Archers.

In the time of King Edward the sixt, 1548. Ket with his Norfolke Rebels, by one conflict and a foughten field (beeing men vnarmed) did great exploits against the Duke of Northumberland by Archers: So that the Duke lost his good opinion of Harquebuzies, and would euer after say publikely, the Bow to be the noblest weapon of the world: This Sir Iohn Smyth setteth down from the certaine reporte of the late Earle of Warwicke, who was there present.

In the same Kinges time the Westerne Rebels drove the Spanisly and Italian Harquebuzies from all their strengths with bolles of Arrowes, which Sir Iohn Smyth also hath hard the L. Chamberlaine that now is very notably report (who was there an eie witnes) Captaine Spinola an Italian, a verie braue Souldiour, and wounded with Arrowes in these seruices, gaue singular commendation of the Archerie of England.

The right honorable the Lord of Hunsdon, L. Chamberlaine that now is, an eie-witnes.

The

The necessitie, and

The Battell of Floddon hill, where Iames King Scottes was slain, is very famous: where the Archers of Cheshire and Lancashire got immortal name and praise for ever.

The feare onely of English Archers hath done stranger things then is read of els where: and that not long sithence, betwixt Eske and Leuen at Sandie Sikes did appear, where the whole nobility of Scotland, for feare of the Archers of England, were drowned and taken Prisoners.

There is an olde prouerbe in Scotland, that euery English Archer beareth vnder his girdle twenty foure Scottes.

And if it be true, as it is sayd, when the King of England hath been in France, the Priestes at home (because they were Archers) haue been able to ouerthrow all Scotland.

Bishop Latimer his commendation of Archerie.

Bishop Latimer in his sixt Sermon made before King Edward the sixt, desired the Lordes, as they loued the honour and glory of God, and as they intended to remoue his indignation, to prouide for the practise of Shooting: which hee called the gift of god, wherby we excelled all other Nations: and an Instrument wherby he hath giuen vnto vs many victories.

The foresaide Lord Warwicke did also reporte, that when he was Lieutenant generall at Newhaueu, hee did send to the Admirall of France, then fauored by her Maiesty, six hundred harquebuziers, who thankfully receiuing them, yet said, hee had rather haue had two hundred Archers: And that he would
with

Excellence of Archerie.

with them perfoyme greater seruice: This message was brought from the Admiral by Sir Francis Sommerfet, Sir Richard Throgmorton, and Sir William Pellam, knightes.

Wonderful seruice was sithence done by foure scoze of our Archers, against Dutch & French Har- buliers in France, to the great admiration of the Reingraue: whereupon hee did protest and acknow- ledge the Long-bowes of England to be the best weapons for the field that were vled by any nation of Christendome: And said that the Quene of Eng- land had great cause so to esteem of them. Reported by the said Earle of Warwicke.

Sir James Croft declared many notable seruices hee had seene done by Archers in England, Fraunce, Scotland and Ireland.

About Barkholmew tyde last, 1595. there came out of Scotland, one Iames Forgeson, Bowyer to the king of Scots, who credibly reported, that about two peares past, certaine rebelles did rise there against the king, who sent against them five hundred horse- men well appointed: They meeting three hundred of the Rebels Bowmen, encountred each with other, where the Bowmen slue two hundred and foure scoze of their horses, and killed, wounded, and sore hurt most part of the kinges men. Whereupon the said Forgeson was sent hether from the king with Commission to buy vp ten thousande Bowes and Bowstaues: But because he could not spæd hær, he went ouer into the East countries for the m: This report wil be proued by credible persons of the cit- tie of London.

Scots be-
come Ar-
chers.

Scots make
prouision
of Archerie

D

At

It may therefore be well concluded with Sir John Smyth: That all conquering Nations haue made chiefe choise of the Bowes, as of the most excellent kind of weapon for victories and conquests.

And yet (as he sayth) it is euident by all histories and all such as haue trauelled many partes of Europe, Asia, and Affricke, that English Bowes & Arrows doe excede and excell all others vsed by all forrein Nations, not only in substance and strength but also in length and bignesse.

Neither is it vnknowne, that the French Captaines and Gentlemen of this age, attribute all the former victories of the English against themselves, and their Ancestors, more to the effect of Archers, then to any extraordinary valiancie of our nation.

It therfore were great pittie (or rather impiety) to suffer this noble ancient weapon being so mightie a strength and honoz to al nations that haue and doe vse the same, and especially to our English people aboue all others, for the reasons and examples aboue rehearsed) to goe to decay amongst vs, while there is godly lawes prouided for the same, and while it may be vsed of any person, and the same person fully prouided of Bowe and arrows for exercise (according to the prescription of the lawe on that behalfe) vnder twentie pence. The practise wherof (besides his owne excellence) wil greatly diminish the noysome and pestilent custom of vnlawfull games now crept in vse in the rone therof, being far more chargeable then Archery is.

But there is great hope that this honorable weapon

Excellencie of Archerie

pon note (by vse of vnlawful games) greatly decayed, will resume to it selfe within this realme, his ancient strength and vertue (and that in short time, the people of a naturall inclination being giuen thereunto) seeing it hath pleased her royal Maiesty, vnder her Highnesse hand, to haue giuen out warrant vnto the right Honorable Sir Iohn Puckering Knight, Lord Keeper of the great Seale of England, to grant out Commissions vnder the same Seale, to put in execution one laudable Statute, made in the time of her right Princely Father for exercise of Archery, and debarring of vnlawful games: And seeing that the Lordes of her Highnesse priuy Counsell haue also by their Letters directed to his Lordsh. commended the same, as an Act fit to bee performed for the honor and strength of the Realme.

FINIS.

D 2

